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USDA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

December 5, 1949

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School;

Among the more significant GS events since the last Newsletter have been the informative lectures and seminars on "U. S. Agricultural Policies and Programs." On November 7, Secretary Brannan made clear to an "SRO" Jefferson Auditorium that he welcomes full discussion of agricultural policy, in and out of USDA, and whether or not viewpoints involved coincide with his own. Speaking on "Agricultural Price Policy," he emphasized that the "tough and central" problem of insuring the farmer fair return for his products is still unsolved. The solution to that problem must recognize interests of all groups, insisted the Secretary. He stressed the point that production control by price adjustment is neither feasible nor equitable.

On October 10, again before a capacity audience, Mr. G. V. Wells, DAE Chief, in discussing "Agriculture Looks Ahead," analyzed prospects for agriculture and found them encouraging, provided appropriate adjustments are made toward meeting: changing demands; declining markets abroad; and increased production at home.

A less optimistic picture was offered by Mr. William Vogt of the Pan American Union, author of the best-selling and highly controversial "Our Plundered Planet", whose topic on October 24 was "The U. S. is Not the World." Mr. Vogt's views on the status of the world's natural resources always stimulate healthy discussion. His portrayal of disastrous conditions in other countries warns of the consequences of failing to conserve our own resources. He stated that his position often has seemed extreme due to those large and influential groups which reject his theories either without just consideration or because of inherent bias. Among them he included: many economists; those who reject any theory not conforming to their dogma; men of good will who can't face the horrible truth; and the generic American who can't visualize the intrinsic poverty of other regions. Agronomists and geneticists are generally sceptical, pointed out Vogt, and while recognizing the significance of their contributions and theories, he contended that the great masses of the world's population still live in areas simply out of reach of these developments.

Today, December 5, Dr. John D. Black of Harvard University continues this series in Jefferson Auditorium at 4 p.m. on "Production Adjustments," followed by an evening meeting with the seminar. Based on past seminars, Dr. Black, long associated with agriculture and USDA and a

many-time GS speaker, can expect his views, as reflected for example in his Parity, Parity Parity and the more recent Future Food and Agricultural Policy, to receive minute seminar dissection.

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Tuesday, November 29, I attended an interesting luncheon meeting of faculty and committee members in the Department of Technology. Under the leadership of Chairman Frank J. Sette, the discussion was to serve as a kick-off for later meetings by divisional and other committees and faculties. Through this means, groups will take stock of course needs and programs and plan needed adjustments for 1950-51. This first meeting was highly informal with brief talks on developments and trends by divisional chairmen Thomas B. Chambers, R. C. Hainsworth and Marshall S. Wright, Departmental Committee member C. J. Stocking and faculty members.

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Annually, since 1923, the Outlook Conference (sponsored by BAE, Ext. and BENTHE) pulls together an impressive group of experts who comprehensively analyze agricultural problems and progress across the board. The flexible and tenuous nature of most issues preclude pat or headline-catching answers. The social and economic problems of agriculture cannot be answered that way. But during the week of October 31 through November 4 a great many issues were laid on the block in the discussions in Jefferson Auditorium. This year at least 20 statements were offered on such subjects as community development, farm family living and domestic business, in addition to the various commodity outlooks which are always covered in the sessions. Most statements have been processed and are available now from BAE.

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Since the last Newsletter several significant lectures have been delivered as part of the series on the "U.S. and World Affairs" chaired by Nelson T. Johnson (Far Eastern Commission) and William Van Royen (University of Maryland). N. G. Abhyankar (Food Counselor of the Indian Embassy) spoke on "Southeast Asia and Rice" October 20; "The Economic Rehabilitation of Greece" was the November 3 subject of George C. McGhee (Assistant Secretary of State) and on November 17 N. A. C. Slotemaker de Bruine (Counselor of the Netherlands Embassy) discussed "Indonesia and the Netherlands. On December 1, Emilio Abello (Minister Plenipotentiary, Philippine Embassy) delivered "The Philippines".

On December 15, the series will close with a timely talk by George V. Allen (Former Assistant Secretary of State) who leaves in a few weeks for his new post as Ambassador to Yugoslavia. Mr. Allen's talk will take a broader turn than that originally announced and will cover "Nationalism and Development in the Moslem World". Renowned for his handling of the cultural affairs program of the Department of State, including the Voice of America and for his early role, vis a vis the Soviet Union when he was Ambassador to Iran, there is probably no better qualified American on the subject to which Mr. Allen will address himself.

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Many Newsletter readers were sent a copy of the Report on Educational Statistics for 1949. If you have not already done so, I suggest that each of you at least glance through the report. Mrs. Burrow has done a splendid job of presenting those data which summarize some of the significant aspects of the ES program. If you did not receive the report, you may get one by calling the Business Office, code 161, Ext. 6537.

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We all want to join in wishing W. F. Callander (BAE) and L. B. Tuckerman (Standards) an enjoyable and rewarding retirement. Dr. Tuckerman, formerly a member of the Committee on Physical Sciences, retired from the National Bureau of Standards on September 1. Mr. Callander, a member of the Committee on Internship in Sampling, leaves BAE this month.

Mr. Callander and Dr. Tuckerman both devoted their life to improvement of public service. In addition to the many tangible contributions to their respective fields of work, their influence will continue to be reflected in the men and women who had the opportunity to study and work under their guidance and direction.

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During the past 18 months the Committee on Correspondence Study and Extension Education, under the Chairmanship of E. J. Peterson (SCS) has set about evaluating the extent of unmet educational needs among USDA field workers. Through survey techniques proposed by BAE specialists, a questionnaire was sent by respective agencies to about 16% of the total USDA staff outside Washington.

The survey revealed interest in a wide range of subjects including letter and report writing, public speaking, marketing, farm management, supervision, psychology, agronomy, economics, and personnel management.

Originally set up to submit recommendations to the Committee on Long Range Plans, this study group has set up three major activities:

- (1) Propose methods of informing field employees about correspondence courses and programs of study which are now available.
- (2) Recommend areas in which prewar course programs do not appear to meet needs peculiar to agriculture.
- (3) Explore ways and means of encouraging Land-Grant and other institutions to offer both extension and residence courses to meet constantly changing needs of USDA employees.

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Miss Jensen asks that your attention be drawn to timely volumes added to the GS collection in the Library. Among them: Howard Ellis' Survey of Contemporary Economics; Brookings Institution's Toward an Effective Democracy; E. J. Simmons' USSR; Carl Sumner Shoup's Principles of National Income Analysis; This is Congress, by Roland Arnold Young, and Marion Dargan's Guide To American Bibliography. On reserve, these books may be borrowed for one week by GS faculty and students and USDA employees.

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Kudos are in order for the AERA Reporter! This spritely publication, circulating nearly 6,000 copies on each of its first three appearances, has served up information and fun in a commendable manner. The esprit de corps of employees cannot help but be heightened by such developments as this and the growth of the musical and dramatic activities of AERA.

Sitting back and looking at one's self is never an easy task, but GS groups make rather consistent attempts at self-appraisal. This semester such self-examination has ranged from reappraisal of the large GS Bulletin to frank facing up to space problems. Under Office of Information's R. Lyle Webster's direction, a small group of experts has undertaken to make a candid analysis of our annual Bulletin in terms of objectives laid down for it. Depending on findings of this group, the 1950-51 issue may or may not be much altered.

Space problems are of more formidable proportions. With Office of Plant and Operations officials taking the leadership, a new look at this matter is underway. Registrar Barbara Burrow describes trends as pointing to the time when, without some form of prior relief, physical conditions will dictate the nature of the after-hours course program.

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The decision made at last week's session of the FAO to locate FAO headquarters in Italy brings much regret to all of us. Aside from other, and much more important considerations, GS will miss its cooperative relations with FAO and the participation of FAO personnel as faculty members and students.

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Incidentally, the FAO conference news last week turned up a series of news stories both amusing and informational in announcing a birth at Beltsville of a three-quarter blood Red Sindhi calf. The calf is the first of the second generation of crosses of the Red Sindhi breed of Brahman dairy cattle with our domestic Jerseys. Brahman dairy cattle were imported from India about 3 years ago by the Bureau of Dairy Industry. O. E. Reed, BDI Chief, attending the Dairy Industry Society International and the FAO conference here, was reported in the press as receiving regular bulletins on the condition of the expectant cow. All in all the incident provided hourly news and, more important, information on another

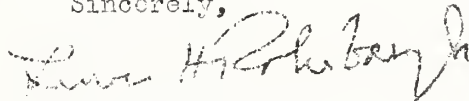
step forward in development of hot weather resistant strains of dairy cattle.

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During the week of October 23, I attended the annual Land-Grant Association Conference at Kansas City and participated in a meeting of the joint Land-Grant and USDA Committee on Training for Public Service. The Committee's findings emphasized that increasingly the manpower and physical resources of land-grant institutions and of USDA are being called upon with respect to the use of U. S. Specialists in other countries in connection with ECA, Military Government and missions, FAO, Fulbright, and related undertakings falling in the general realm of President Truman's vast Point 4 Proposals. In addition, more and more foreign visitors and students are coming for agricultural education and experience in the Land-Grant institutions and USDA.

That successful cooperation between and among nations depends primarily on clear understanding of the different national cultures involved was also stressed. The Association's Senate passed a resolution regarding these issues and recommending that the Association and USDA set up a joint committee to provide for shoulder-to-shoulder work on these common problems.

Sincerely,



Director

